

30. The method of Claim 27 wherein the first type of nanoparticles has at least two types of oligonucleotides attached thereto, the first type of oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to the second portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, and the second type of oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to the sequence of at least a portion of the oligonucleotides on the second type of nanoparticles.

31. The method of Claim 30 further comprising contacting the second type of nanoparticles bound to the substrate with the first type of nanoparticles, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the first and second types of nanoparticles.

32. The method of Claim 27 wherein the substrate has a plurality of types of oligonucleotides attached to it in an array to allow for the detection of multiple portions of a single nucleic acid, the detection of multiple different nucleic acids, or both.

33. The method of any one of Claims 23-32 wherein the substrate is a transparent substrate or an opaque white substrate.

34. The method of Claim 33 wherein the detectable change is the formation of dark areas on the substrate.

35. The method of any one of Claims 23-32 wherein the nanoparticles are made of gold.

36. The method of any one of Claims 23-32 wherein the substrate is contacted with silver stain to produce the detectable change.

37. The method of any one of Claims 23-32 wherein the detectable change is observed with an optical scanner.

38. A method of detecting nucleic acid having at least two portions comprising:
contacting a nucleic acid to be detected with a substrate having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a first portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the substrate with said nucleic acid;

contacting said nucleic acid bound to the substrate with a type of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a second portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the nanoparticles with said nucleic acid;

contacting the substrate with silver stain to produce a detectable change; and observing the detectable change.

39. The method of Claim 38 wherein the nanoparticles are made of a noble metal.

40. The method of Claim 39 wherein the nanoparticles are made of gold or silver.

41. The method of Claim 38 wherein the substrate has a plurality of types of oligonucleotides attached to it in an array to allow for the detection of multiple portions of a single nucleic acid, the detection of multiple different nucleic acids, or both.

42. The method of any one of Claims 38-41 wherein the detectable change is observed with an optical scanner.

43. A method of detecting nucleic acid having at least two portions comprising:
contacting a nucleic acid to be detected with a substrate having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a first portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the substrate with said nucleic acid;

contacting said nucleic acid bound to the substrate with liposomes having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the liposomes with said nucleic acid;

contacting the liposomes bound to the substrate with a first type of nanoparticles having at least a first type oligonucleotides attached thereto, the first type of oligonucleotides having a hydrophobic group attached to the end not attached to the nanoparticles, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow attachment of the oligonucleotides on the nanoparticles to the liposomes as a result of hydrophobic interactions; and

observing a detectable change.

44. A method of detecting nucleic acid having at least two portions comprising
contacting a nucleic acid to be detected with a substrate having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a first portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, the contacting taking place under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the substrate with said nucleic acid;

contacting said nucleic acid bound to the substrate with liposomes having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a portion of the sequence of said nucleic acid, the contacting taking place under conditions